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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,312	05/04/2006	Toshio Kazama	060356	5719
23850	7590	02/11/2008	EXAMINER	
KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP			PAUMEN, GARY F	
1420 K Street, N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Suite 400			2833	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MAIL DATE	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,312	Applicant(s) KAZAMA ET AL.
	Examiner Gary F. Paumen	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 18-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 18-21 and 34-36 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 22-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

Claims 23-33 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on June 4, 2007. In addition, claim 22 stands withdrawn as also being directed to a nonelected species.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 18, 20 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Neumann et al 5178549.

Neumann et al discloses conductive-contact holder 28 made of metal, ground contacts 69, and signal contacts 65 insulated from the holder, the holder providing connections between circuit boards 12b and 12c.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Wilson 5037332.

Neumann et al substantially discloses the claimed invention except for a conductive pipe. Wilson discloses conductive pipe 60, and to provide Neumann et al with a conductive pipe thus would have been obvious, for better grounding.

Claims 21 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al as applied to claims 18 and 34 above, and further in view of the Background Art.

Neumann et al substantially discloses the claimed invention except for a ground-potential supply unit. The Background Art discloses a ground-potential supply unit, and to provide Neumann et al with a ground-potential supply unit thus would have been obvious, to provide ground potential to the overall assembly.

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Longueville et al 5785534.

Neumann et al substantially discloses the claimed invention except for the insulating member being designed to correct impedance. Longueville et al discloses tubular shaped insulating members 16a, 16b, 17 which control the impedance of signal contact 15. It would have been obvious to form the insulating member of Neumann et al such that the impedance as at a desired value, as taught by Longueville et al, to facilitate signal transmission.

Applicant's arguments filed December 5, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's characterization of Neumann et al on page 10 of the remarks clearly shows that Neumann et al is a proper reference. It is not clear how the contacts of the instant invention extending out of holes in the circuit board is relevant to the claimed subject matter.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary F. Paumen whose telephone number is 571-594-3830. Or EMAIL "gary.paumen@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gfp

/Gary F. Paumen/
Primary Examiner, AU 2833

Application Number 	Application/Control No. 10/578,312	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination KAZAMA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Gary F. Paumen	2833	